
Conference on Disarmament

28 January 2016
English
Original: Spanish

Note verbale dated 25 January 2016 from the Permanent Mission of Colombia addressed to the Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament transmitting the instrument of ratification and a declaration dated 4 September 2015 in respect of the Convention on Cluster Munitions

The Permanent Mission of Colombia to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament and has the honour to inform him that, on 10 September 2015, Colombia deposited with the Treaty Section of the Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations its instrument of ratification of the Convention on Cluster Munitions, adopted in Dublin on 30 May 2008. In accordance with the provisions set out in its article 17 (2), the Convention will enter into force for Colombia on 1 March 2016. The text of the instrument of ratification, which includes a declaration, is enclosed herewith.

The Permanent Mission of Colombia requests that the present note verbale and the attached text be circulated to all States members of and observers to the Conference on Disarmament as an official document of the Conference.



Juan Manuel Santos Calderón
President of the Republic of Colombia

To all to whom these presents shall come, greeting:

Whereas it is necessary to deposit an instrument of ratification of the Convention on Cluster Munitions, adopted in Dublin on 30 May 2008,

Whereas the Congress of the Republic has approved said Convention by Act No. 1604 of 21 December 2012, published in the Official Gazette, No. 48.651 of 21 December 2012, and the Constitutional Court has declared the Convention and the Act approving the Convention to be constitutional by its Decision C-910 of 3 December 2013, I hereby confer my acceptance and approval and order that the Convention be incorporated into the Law of the Republic and that it be observed and respected as a matter of national honour, and to that end:

I hereby issue the present instrument of ratification, which shall be deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations in accordance with article 17 of the Convention, together with the following declaration:

"In 2009, the Government of the Republic of Colombia destroyed all its stockpiles of cluster munitions. Given the existence of an internal armed conflict, it is possible that there remain, in national territory, cluster munitions or cluster munition remnants of whose location the State has no knowledge or suspicion.

In the light of the above, the Republic of Colombia makes the following declarations regarding articles 4 and 10 of the Convention:

With regard to article 4, and bearing in mind the particular circumstances of its internal armed conflict, the Republic of Colombia understands 'cluster munition remnants' to mean those whose location is known or suspected by the State.

With regard to article 10 of the Convention, the Republic of Colombia declares that the contents of paragraph 1 thereof do not imply any recognition of or mandatory or automatic subjection of any dispute to the jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice, but instead refer to the discretionary power of each State party to submit matters related to the interpretation or application of the Convention on Cluster Munitions to such jurisdiction, provided that each State has expressly so agreed in each case."

Done and signed by my hand, embossed with the Seal of the Republic of Colombia and endorsed by the Minister for Foreign Affairs in the city of Bogotá, D.C., on 4 September 2015.

(Signed) María Ángela Holguín Cuellar
Minister for Foreign Affairs

Conference on Disarmament

4 February 2016

Original: English

Letter dated 26 January 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey addressed to the Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament regarding the requests for participation in the work of the conference during 2016 from non-member States

I have the honour to inform you that Turkey accepts the list contained in document CD/WP.593 with the understanding emphasized in and circulated with documents CD/1438 and CD/1738.

I would appreciate it if this letter could be issued as an official document of the Conference on Disarmament.

(Signed): Mehmet Ferden Çarıkçı
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

GE.16-01522(E)

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Conference on Disarmament

19 February 2016

Original: English

Letter dated 19 February 2016 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the Conference on Disarmament addressed to the Secretary-General of the Conference transmitting a draft decision for the Conference to establish a formal working group and an associated programme of work for the duration of the 2016 session

I hereby have the honour to transmit a draft decision for the Conference on Disarmament to establish a formal working group and an associated programme of work for the duration of the 2016 session.

I will introduce this draft at the next formal plenary session but in the meantime I would be grateful if you could issue and circulate this draft decision to all members of the Conference as an official document of the Conference in the hope that the incoming President of the Conference will take forward consultations on this draft and be in a position to submit it for action in the very near future.

(Signed) Matthew Rowland
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
to the Conference on Disarmament

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Draft Proposal for a programme of work for 2016

The Conference on Disarmament,

Convinced that, as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum of the international community, it has the primary role in substantive negotiations on priority questions of disarmament,

Recognizing the need to conduct multilateral negotiations with the aim of reaching agreement on concrete issues to reinforce the international security environment and architecture,

Taking into consideration the final document of the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, which recognised that all the peoples of the world have a vital interest in the success of disarmament negotiations, and that, consequently, all States have the duty to contribute to efforts in the field of disarmament, and that while disarmament is the responsibility of all States, the nuclear-weapon States have the primary responsibility for nuclear disarmament; and that the adoption of disarmament measures should take place in such an equitable and balanced manner, taking into account all factors that could affect global strategic stability, so as to ensure the right of each State to security and to ensure that no individual State or group of States may obtain advantages over others at any stage,

Recalling, in this respect, that the Conference has a number of urgent and important issues on its agenda¹ for negotiation to achieve disarmament goals,

Cognisant that the examination of items on the Conference's agenda can be considered in the absence of a decision on substance as provided in the rules of procedure and highlighted in CD/2033² adopted by consensus,

Determined to pursue all items on its agenda in a balanced and comprehensive manner, without prejudice to any, in accordance with and fully respecting its rules of procedure, and given the mandate conferred to the Conference on Disarmament by the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, decides:

1. *To establish* a working group and associated programme of work for the duration of the 2016 session to identify, elaborate and recommend effective measures on nuclear disarmament, including legal provisions and other arrangements that contribute to and are required for the achievement and maintenance of a world without nuclear weapons; the legal provisions could be established through various approaches, including a stand-alone instrument or a framework agreement.
2. *The working group shall be chaired* by Mr. Matthew Rowland, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the Conference on Disarmament [and co-chaired by....]
3. *The Working Group shall remain open* to all member States of the Conference on Disarmament and to those interested non-member States that the Conference has invited to participate in its work during the 2016 session, in accordance with the rules of procedure of

¹ CD/2052 adopted at the 1371st plenary meeting on 26 January 2016.

² Final report of the work of the Informal Working Group re-established pursuant to rule 23 of its rules of procedures, with a mandate to produce a programme of work robust in substance and progressive over time in implementation, adopted at the 1363rd plenary meeting on 17 August 2015.

the Conference and the decision taken at its 1990 session on its improved and effective functioning (CD/1036).

4. *The Working Group shall continue* to use the rules of procedure of the Conference, *mutatis mutandis*.

5. *The Working Group shall present* a report to the Conference on its progress before the end of the fifth presidency of the current session.

6. *In accordance with the rules of procedure*, the Working Group will hold plenary sessions under the following indicative schedule cognisant of the need for general plenary meetings and meetings of regional groups:

First part

[President: Norway]

23 February	General plenary.
29 February – 4 March	High level segment.
8 March	General plenary.
9 March pm – 11 March	Identification of effective measures on nuclear disarmament, including legal provisions and other arrangements that contribute to and are required for the achievement and maintenance of a world without nuclear weapons.
15 March	General plenary.
16 March pm – 18 March	Identification of effective measures on nuclear disarmament, including legal provisions and other arrangements that contribute to and are required for the achievement and maintenance of a world without nuclear weapons.

[President: Pakistan]

22 March	General plenary.
23 March pm – 25 March	Identification of effective measures on nuclear disarmament, including legal provisions and other arrangements that contribute to and are required for the achievement and maintenance of a world without nuclear weapons.
29 March	General plenary.
30 March pm - 31 March	Identification of effective measures on nuclear disarmament, including legal provisions and other arrangements that contribute to and are required for the achievement and maintenance of a world without nuclear weapons identified for possible elaboration.
1 April	Civil society addresses and debate.

Second part

17 May

General plenary.

18 May pm – 20 May

Elaboration of identified effective measures on nuclear disarmament, including legal provisions and other arrangements that contribute to and are required for the achievement and maintenance of a world without nuclear weapons.

24 May

General plenary.

25 May pm – 27 May

Elaboration of identified effective measures on nuclear disarmament, including legal provisions and other arrangements that contribute to and are required for the achievement and maintenance of a world without nuclear weapons.

[President: Peru]

31 May

General plenary.

1 June pm – 3 June

Elaboration of identified effective measures on nuclear disarmament, including legal provisions and other arrangements that contribute to and are required for the achievement and maintenance of a world without nuclear weapons.

7 June

General plenary.

8 June pm – 10 June

Elaboration of identified effective measures on nuclear disarmament, including legal provisions and other arrangements that contribute to and are required for the achievement and maintenance of a world without nuclear weapons.

14 June

General plenary.

15 June pm – 17 June

Elaboration of identified effective measures on nuclear disarmament, including legal provisions and other arrangements that contribute to and are required for the achievement and maintenance of a world without nuclear weapons.

21 June

General plenary.

[President: Poland]

28 June

General plenary

29 June pm – 30 June

Recommendations of the working group on effective measures on nuclear disarmament, including legal provisions and other arrangements that contribute to and are required for the achievement and maintenance of a world without nuclear weapons.

1 July

Civil society addresses and debate.

Third part

2 August	General plenary.
3 August pm – 5 August	Recommendations of the working group on effective measures on nuclear disarmament, including legal provisions and other arrangements that contribute to and are required for the achievement and maintenance of a world without nuclear weapons.
9 August	General plenary.
16 August	General plenary.
17 August pm – 18 August	Recommendations of the working group on effective measures on nuclear disarmament, including legal provisions and other arrangements that contribute to and are required for the achievement and maintenance of a world without nuclear weapons.
19 August	Conclusions of the working group and report back to the Conference by its Chairs.

[President: Republic of Korea]

23 August	General plenary.
26 August	Civil society addresses and debate.
29 August – 2 September	Final statements, consideration of the report of the Conference on Disarmament.
5 – 9 September	Final statements, consideration of the report of the Conference on Disarmament.
12 – 16 September	Final statements, consideration and adoption of the report of the Conference on Disarmament.

7. Should member States agree by consensus to negotiate a multilateral legal arrangement on any issue on the agenda of the Conference during the course of the 2016 session, the Conference should establish, in accordance with rule 23, a separate subsidiary body for the subsequent negotiation of that issue.

8. In adopting this programme of work, the Conference has kept in mind the provisions of rules 30 and 31 of its rules of procedure.

Conference on Disarmament

3 March 2016

English

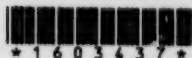
Original: English and Spanish

Note verbale dated 26 February 2016 addressed to the Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament by the Permanent Mission of Argentina in its capacity as coordinator of the work of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean transmitting the communiqué issued on 14 February 2016 concerning the forty-ninth anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Tlatelolco

The Permanent Mission of the Argentine Republic to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva, in its capacity as coordinator for the work of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL) in Geneva, presents its compliments to the secretariat of the Conference on Disarmament and has the honour to transmit herewith the communiqué concerning the forty-ninth anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Tlatelolco, which was adopted by the member States of OPANAL on 12 February 2016 (Inf. 02/2016).

The Permanent Mission of Argentina requests that this communiqué be issued as an official document of the Conference on Disarmament.

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Communiqué

49th Anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Tlatelolco

1. The Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean — Treaty of Tlatelolco — is commemorating the 49th Anniversary of its conclusion, which took place on 14 February 1967; as well as the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL), established pursuant to Article 7 of the Treaty.
2. Over a period of 49 years as the first Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone to be established in a densely populated region of the world, Latin America and the Caribbean has remained faithful to the letter and spirit of the Treaty of Tlatelolco.
3. The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), concluded over a year after the Treaty of Tlatelolco, thereby received from Latin America and the Caribbean the fundamental endowment of a region without nuclear weapons, strengthened by its formal proclamation as a Zone of Peace at the II Summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), held on 29 January 2014.
4. The Treaty of Tlatelolco is the first legally-binding instrument prohibiting the testing, use, manufacture, production or acquisition, by any means whatsoever of any nuclear weapons, as well as the receipt, storage, installation, deployment or any form of possession of any nuclear weapons.
5. The Member States of OPANAL welcome the establishment of the open-ended working group by virtue of resolution 70/33 adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 7 December 2015. This group shall convene in Geneva in 2016. We undertake to actively work in said forum, in a proactive and constructive manner, in keeping with the respective political and moral leadership of Latin America and the Caribbean.
6. Like the Treaty of Tlatelolco, which states in its preamble that Latin America and the Caribbean is convinced that nuclear weapons — the terrible effects of which are suffered indiscriminately and inexorably by military forces and civilian population alike — constitute, through the persistence of the radioactivity they release, an attack on the integrity of the human species and ultimately may render the whole earth uninhabitable; the Member States of OPANAL continue to raise awareness on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons and on the need to eliminate them as the only guarantee against their use or threat of use.
7. Pending the attainment of the objective of the complete elimination of nuclear weapons, the international community must urgently make the necessary decisions for:
 - (a) the launching of a multilateral diplomatic process for the negotiation of a universal legally binding instrument prohibiting and eliminating nuclear weapons in a transparent, irreversible and verifiable manner and within a multilaterally agreed timeframe;
 - (b) the effective cessation of nuclear tests of any kind, including subcritical tests and those conducted using supercomputers, and the prompt entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), dependent on the essential signature and/or ratification by Annex II States;
 - (c) the immediate cancellation of all plans for the modernization and qualitative improvement of nuclear weapons;

(d) the universalization of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and strict compliance with it, including the obligations undertaken under Article VI;

(e) the establishment of new zones free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass-destruction, particularly in the Middle East and on the Korean Peninsula, as well as in other regions in the world;

(f) the adoption of a universal legally-binding instrument on negative security assurances;

(g) the elimination of the role of nuclear weapons in doctrines, security policies and military strategies;

(h) the prevention and prohibition of the arms race in outer space;

(i) banning fissile materials for nuclear weapons and other nuclear explosive devices, as well as the elimination of existing weapons;

(j) strengthening education and information about the imminent danger posed by nuclear weapons and about the negative consequences of the possession of nuclear weapons on international relations and for peace and security in the world.

8. With the authority and legitimacy bestowed by that political initiative undertaken 49 years ago upon the States Party to the Treaty, the Latin American and Caribbean region remains at the forefront of the endeavours to free the world from the threat posed by nuclear weapons through the elimination of all nuclear arsenals, in a transparent, irreversible and verifiable manner.

The Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL), with its headquarters in Mexico City, ensures compliance with the Treaty of Tlatelolco and consists of the 33 Latin American and Caribbean States, all of them Parties to the Treaty of Tlatelolco.

Draft proposal for programme of work for the 2016 session

The Conference on Disarmament,

Mindful that the Conference on Disarmament is the single multilateral negotiating forum on disarmament as recognized by special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament (SSOD I),

Deeply concerned about the worldwide escalation of acts of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations,

Taking into consideration the growing threat of the use of chemical weapons and materials by illegal non-State militarized groups, which has been showcased recently by multiple episodes of the use of chemical materials by terrorists in Iraq and Syria, as well as the possibility of hijacking of the facilities and infrastructure for the production of chemical weapons and materials by such groups,

Conscious of the work undertaken by the Conference on Disarmament on the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction and recognizing the need for a follow-up to this work due to remaining loopholes in the international legal framework,

Taking note of the conclusion and successful implementation of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism of 2005 as an important milestone in addressing the issue of terrorism,

Recalling the agenda for the 2016 session of the Conference adopted as CD/2052, as well as its rules of procedure which, inter alia, provide for the possibility of reviewing the agenda of the Conference on Disarmament,

decides:

1. To establish a working group under the agenda item 6 "comprehensive programme of disarmament" and associated schedule of work for the duration of the 2016 session to conduct negotiations with a view to elaborating basic elements of an international convention for the suppression of acts of chemical terrorism.
2. The working group shall be chaired by [...]

[Presidents: Norway, Pakistan]

4 March – 1 April Identification of the key elements of a future Convention

[Presidents: Pakistan, Peru, Poland]

16 May – 1 July Consideration of the proposals by the member States on the elaboration of the key elements of a future Convention

[President: Poland]

2 – 19 August Preparation of a report of the working group with recommendations on further work under the agenda item

Furthermore, *conscious of the need* to establish a balanced and comprehensive programme of work for the Conference,

Taking in account all the discussions held on the programme of work of the Conference on Disarmament and suggestions made to this end,

Without prescribing or precluding any outcome(s) for discussions under a new paragraph, as well as paragraphs 1, 2, 3 and 4 below, with a view to enabling future compromise(s) and including the possibility of future negotiations under any agenda item, thus upholding the nature of the forum,

Also decides:

1. *To establish a working group under agenda item 1 entitled "cessation of the nuclear arms race and nuclear disarmament" and agenda item 2 entitled "prevention of nuclear war, including all related matters", to carry out discussions with a view to identifying, elaborating and recommending effective measures on nuclear disarmament.*
2. *To establish a working group under agenda item 1 entitled "cessation of the nuclear arms race and nuclear disarmament" and agenda item 2 entitled "prevention of nuclear war, including all related matters" to carry out discussions with a view to identifying, elaborating and recommending effective measures to ban the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons and other nuclear explosive devices on the basis of the document CD/1299 of 24 March 1995 and the mandate contained therein.*
3. *To establish a working group under agenda item 3 entitled "prevention of an arms race in outer space" to carry out discussions with a view to identifying, elaborating and recommending effective measures on prevention of an arms race in outer space.*
4. *To establish a working group under agenda item 4 entitled "effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons" to carry out discussions with a view to identifying, elaborating and recommending effective measures to assure non-nuclear weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons.*

The Conference shall appoint coordinators for the working groups. Each working group shall present to the Conference the report on the outcome of its work before the end of the fifth Presidency of the current session. The working groups shall take into consideration all relevant views, proposals and decisions past, present and future.

The schedules of working groups' activities are subject to consultations with the member States of the Conference on Disarmament, which will take into account the experience of the arrangements of such discussions in the previous sessions.